

have all thumbed through the shelves of Johnson's selections. They now know what those of us in Springfield have known for years; the charm, character and quality of a local, community-oriented bookstore like Johnson's is a treasure in today's modern society.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today both as a Member of this House and as a frequent patron to say goodbye and thank you to Johnson's Bookstore. The legacy you have left in Springfield will last for generations, and you will certainly be missed.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 1997*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this month we celebrate the National Board for Professional Teaching Standard [NBPTS] 10th anniversary. Since its foundation, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards has made tremendous strides in recognizing our nation's outstanding teachers and elevating the performance level of our public educators. I am extremely proud that North Carolina's Governor, the Hon. Jim Hunt, who has been committed throughout his esteemed public service career to ensuring that our children obtain a quality public education, was the driving force in the creation of this important organization and has served as the NBPTS chair since the board's creation in 1987.

Prior to the foundation of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards no national consensus existed as to the criteria for accomplished teachers. The NBPTS recognized that strengthening the quality of our teachers is the most direct action our Nation can take to improve our students' performance. The board created a rewarding professional development program and a stringent certification process for teachers. Thirty two states have incorporated the national board certification process into their school systems. Board certification effectively challenges and encourages talented teachers to stay in the classroom as well as providing an incentive for high caliber new teachers to enter the profession. Governor Hunt exemplifies the mission of the NBPTS, "Ultimately, all learning comes down to what goes on between teachers and students. By raising standards and encouraging teachers to improve, the National board is channeling education improvement into the classroom to benefit students."

After 10 years at the helm of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Governor Hunt is passing the torch to Barbara Kelly, an experienced educator from Maine. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for Governor Hunt's distinguished leadership of this important organization. Governor Hunt has worked tirelessly in his unprecedented four terms as the Governor of North Carolina to improve the quality of public education in our State and across the Nation. He broke new ground in educational development when he helped ignite the national board, as he has with numerous other education programs in North Carolina and across the Nation. I applaud Governor Hunt's impressive

leadership of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and his continued dedication to the improving and strengthening educational standards, and thus brightening our Nation's future.

ARMING AND TRAINING BOSNIAN FEDERATION FORCES—MAINTAINING A BALANCE OF POWER

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 1997*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the article below appeared in the New York Times. It was around this time that I had just returned from Bosnia visiting our troops and U.N. officials. I take exception to the article, which left a strong impression that the United States policy of arming and training the Bosnian Federation Army has reversed the balance of power in Bosnia and created a potent military force that is now capable of crushing the Bosnian Serb forces. An unnamed European NATO commander also is quoted making the irresponsible statement that "the question no longer is if the Muslims will attack the Bosnian Serbs, but when."

I have been involved in military affairs for a good portion of my life having served in the Marine Corps during the Korean and Vietnam wars and on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee of the House of Representatives since 1979. I have been in Bosnia nine different times over the last 5 years including visits during the war when the UNPROFOR mission was on the verge of collapse. I have discussed our "train and equip" policy in detail with NATO commanders on the ground in Bosnia, with American, British, Bosnian, Croatian, OSCE, and U.N. diplomats, with intelligence analysts in Washington, with the military trainers doing the actual training, and with United States sergeants who patrol the streets of Brcko. I get a far different picture from most of these experts than what was stated in the article.

Most knowledgeable experts agree that the Bosnian Federation army is years away from being an effective fighting force capable of combined arms maneuvers. During the devastating Bosnian conflict, the Muslim army was personnel-rich but equipment-poor. The Bosnian Serb army was the reverse, equipment-rich but manpower-poor. The Bosnian Serb military also enjoyed large advantages in organization, training, leadership, and logistics since the preponderance of the force was from the old Yugoslav National Army. The Muslim army avoided utter defeat only by being able to replace its casualties and fill the gaps faster than the smaller Serb army was able to fully exploit its battlefield successes. But even near the end of the conflict when Muslim forces achieved their greatest success, the weakened Bosnian Serb army was still able to counterattack effectively and retake some key contested areas.

It is too simple to conclude that upgrading Bosnian Federation army equipment and providing a little more than a year's worth of fundamental training will reverse the military balance in Bosnia. The experts I talked to believe the Federation is years away from developing

a trained and cohesive army capable of armored maneuvers. They still have not developed a professional NCO corps necessary to any modern army. They have no ability to supply or sustain the equipment they have received. Their officer corps—which is being taught defensive tactics, not offensive tactics—is still in its infancy. They have no intelligence capability and only a fledgling communications system.

While the Bosnian Serb army has been substantially degraded, it is no secret that supplies, modern equipment, and other warfighting assets could quickly become available to them if renewed hostilities broke out, especially if the Bosnian Federation were seen as the aggressor. While morale among the Bosnian Serbs is low at this time and there are deep division, I believe that this would quickly change if they were attacked. Even if the Federation forces were to have initial military success, they know that such early successes could easily evolve into a wider regional conflict in which the Federation would have few international supporters.

This is not to say that we should turn a blind eye towards how the "train and equip" program is progressing. There is wisdom in achieving rough military parity between the adversaries in this region. It would be a serious blunder if, in the name of achieving this parity, we were to actually reverse the balance and create a new military power capable of offensive action that was bent on revenge.

I am satisfied that our experts in the region understand this delicate situation. They are working hard to ensure that the new Bosnian Federation military is a professional, defensive-minded force that understands both its capabilities and limitations.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 3, 1997]

BOSNIAN MUSLIMS SAID TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO REARM IN SECRET

(By Chris Hedges)

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA.—The Muslim-led government in Sarajevo appears to be intensifying a clandestine program to arm and train its military, and senior NATO officials say it is close to—or may already have achieved—the ability to mount a crushing offensive against the Bosnian Serb-held part of Bosnia.

"The question no longer is if the Muslims will attack the Bosnian Serbs, but when," said a senior European NATO commander. "The only way to prevent such an attack, at this point, is for the peacekeeping mission to extend its mandate."

The NATO officials were united in favoring an extension of the NATO peacekeepers' mandate, and none of them suggested that the Sarajevo government would attempt a military offensive with NATO troops still in place. The peacekeepers are scheduled to leave next June, but the Clinton administration, recognizing the slow pace of reconciliation in Bosnia, has recently joined other NATO allies in favoring an extension of the NATO force, which includes American troops.

U.S. congressional opposition, the strength of which has yet to be tested, appears to be the only remaining obstacle to a continued NATO presence that the officials agreed would offer the best chance of averting a resumption of the 1992-1995 Bosnian war. It appeared that the NATO officials willingness to talk about the Muslim buildup was an attempt to influence the debate on Capitol Hill.

NATO aside, all other factors point toward renewed military confrontation. The NATO